

Internet Resources

General Information on Problems of Globalization

Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, <http://www.tradewatch.org>

International Forum on Globalization, <http://www.ifg.org>

Alliance for Democracy, <http://www.afd-online.org>

Particular Issues: Environment, Debt Relief, Fair Trade

Friends of the Earth, <http://www.foe.org>

Jubilee 2000, <http://www.j2000usa.org>

50 Years is Enough, <http://www.50years.org>

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, <http://www.iatp.org>

Global Exchange, <http://www.globalexchange.org>

Independent Media

Independent Media Center, <http://www.indymedia.org>

Z Magazine, <http://www.zmag.org/>

Official Organizations Favoring Globalization

World Trade Organization, <http://www.wto.org>

International Monetary Fund, <http://www.imf.org>

World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org>

United States Trade Representative, <http://www.ustr.gov>

Books

For the Common Good. John B. Cobb Jr., and Herman Daly. Boston, Beacon Press, 1989.

One World, Ready or Not. William Greider. New York, Touchstone, 1997.

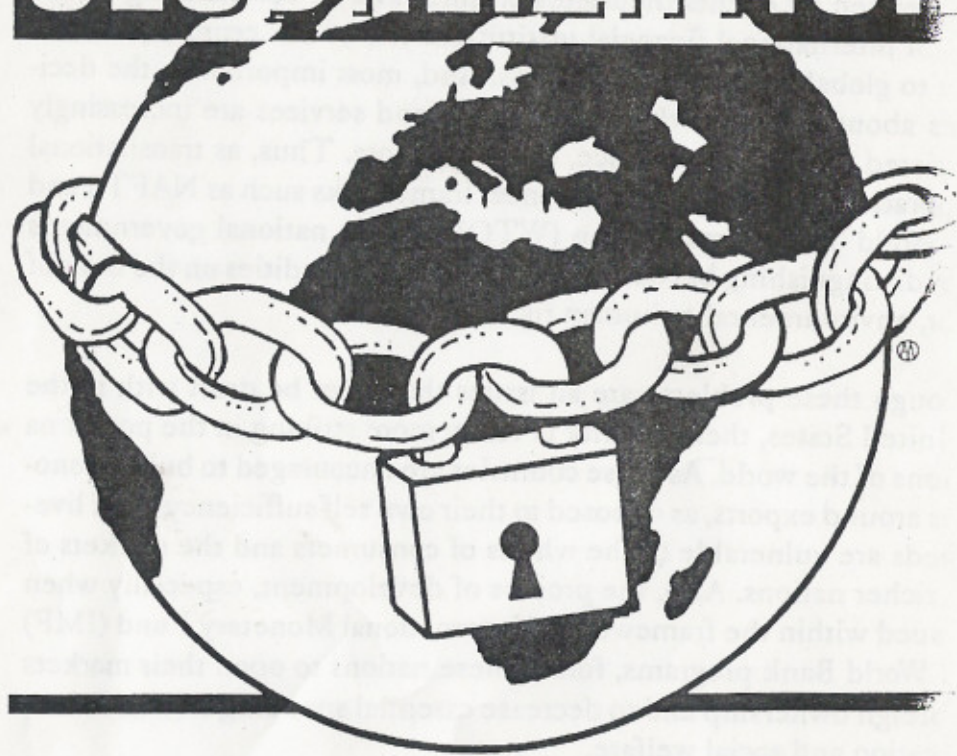
The Ecology of Commerce. Paul Hawken. New York, Harper and Collins, 1993.

When Corporations Rule the World. David Korten. West Hartford, CT, Kumarian Press, 1996.

The Case Against the Global Economy. Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith, eds. San Francisco, Sierra Club Books, 1996.

Whose Trade Organization? Lori Wallach and Michelle Sforza. Washington, D.C., Public Citizen, 1999.

GLOBALIZATION



Globalization *n.* 1. the process by which governments sign away the rights of their citizens in favor of speculative investors and transnational corporations. 2. the erosion of wages, social welfare standards, and environmental regulations for the sake of international trade. 3. the imposition worldwide of a consumer monoculture. Widely but falsely believed to be irreversible. ~ See also *financial meltdown*, *casino economy*, *Third World debt*, and *race to the bottom*.

It is Globalization & Why Should I Care?

Globalization is the process by which our lives are increasingly tied to a global economy. As this connection grows ever more complicated and complete we lose ever more control over our own lives. Prices dictated by events thousands of miles away. Poor planning on the part of international financial institutions leaves our economy vulnerable to global economic meltdowns. And, most importantly, the decisions about how and why to buy goods and services are increasingly restricted to concerns of price, and little more. Thus, as transnational corporations increase their influence, frameworks such as NAFTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) prevent national governments from distinguishing between products and commodities on the basis of labor, environmental or human rights standards.

Though these problems are all issues that must be dealt with in the United States, their severity is vastly more striking in the poorer nations of the world. As these countries are encouraged to build economies around exports, as opposed to their own self sufficiency, their livelihoods are vulnerable to the whims of consumers and the markets of the richer nations. Also, the process of development, especially when pursued within the framework of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank programs, forces these nations to open their markets to foreign ownership and to decrease essential spending on healthcare, education and social welfare.

Corvallis Action on Globalization (CAG) is not "anti-trade." We recognize that international trade can often be highly beneficial to all parties involved. However, globalization is becoming highly destructive to labor and consumer rights, to the environment, and to democracy itself.

capitalism is on a roll

the environment is on

the edge of collapse

Free Trade & Institutions of Globalization

- Free trade agreements and policies place trade and commercial considerations above domestic laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety of workers and consumers, the environment, and human rights. All laws must be the "least trade restrictive" possible. Trade is never subordinate to the other concerns of a decent society.
- These trade agreements attack democracy. They punish countries which enact laws that are considered "unfair barriers to trade." Also, organizations like the WTO make decisions behind closed doors, preventing public oversight and accountability.
- The WTO guts the Precautionary Principle. It requires that risks from chemicals and exotic species must be proven in advance before governments may restrict international trade in them.
- The World Bank funds many projects in developing countries that are highly destructive to the environment, such as huge dams and logging projects.
- The IMF forces developing countries to accept "structural adjustment programs" under which their governments cut funding for hospitals, schools, and food subsidies, pushing already poor people deeper into poverty.

CORVALLIS ACTION ON GLOBALIZATION has been formed to carry forward the energy generated in Seattle at the end of 1999. It is our purpose to educate the local and regional community about globalization and its effects on labor, the environment and human rights. And, in so doing, to provide a reasoned response to its governmental and business supporters.

If **revolution is unavoidable..**, ext. 103.
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